

A MEMORIAL FEAST

On the night that the Lord Jesus was betrayed, He with His apostles observed according to the Law of Moses the Passover. While they were eating in that upper room, Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper. He took the unleavened bread, offered thanks and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." He then took the cup, the fruit of the vine, offered thanks, and said, "Drink ye all of it; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins." (Matthew 26:26-29)

Our Passover was soon to be killed (1 Corinthians 5:7), and our Lord knew it. He knew that He was the Lamb of God without blemish to be sacrificed for man's sins. Ponder what this moment must have been for Jesus. Christ instituted His own memorial of His death with full knowledge and understanding of the pain and agony He would unjustly endure. He pressed upon the minds of the disciples the meaning of this new memorial: the giving of His body and the shedding of His blood.

After the Savior's death and resurrection, I am confident that the Lord's Supper was a commandment that the apostles anxiously longed to share from week to week. It was deeply meaningful. It was an intimately personal communion with Him. This new memorial reminded them of their deliverance from the bondage of sin and the coming of better promises. The hope of salvation anchored them amidst life's storms because Jesus was the propitiation of sins by means of a sacrificial death for sinners. Each time they partook, they proclaimed their Lord's death. And they would keep on doing it until He returned. The disciples of Christ no longer observed the Passover Feast, but they now feasted in the communion of the blood and body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16).

Why do you partake of the Lord's Supper? Has it become a ritual of the church that has very little significance to you? Do you partake of the bread and the cup "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24)? "Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup." (1 Cor. 11:27-28) This memorial is to be a very special occasion for every Christian. It should cause us to reflect upon our spiritual freedom, fellowship and hope that we enjoy because our sins are forgiven through the blood of the Lamb. When partaken with the proper attitude and reverence, children of God are humbly renewed and strengthened. Remembering the death of our Lord and King ought to be a commandment that we Christians cherish dearly.

The Israelites under the Law began preparing for the Passover four days before they actually engaged in the feast. It was not a feast that was easily taken for granted. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of our modern times, do we fully appreciate the weighty matter of memorializing every first day of the week the sacrifice of God's Son in the assembly of saints? Is the Lord's Supper just one of the many things we do on a day off from work? We ought to set our minds on things above and to recognize the solemnity of a divinely ordained opportunity to engage in the spiritual meal that proclaims the good news of the death of Jesus, who is Lord and Christ.